



The mission of The Sophia Way is to help end homelessness for single adult women in King County, by providing shelter, life skills training, social services and supportive permanent housing, offering a pathway from homelessness to a home of their own.



21 Bed
Night
Shelter



Drop in Day
Center



Holly House
Transitional
Housing



32
Apartment
Units



Emergency
Winter
Shelter





There are women who are homeless in Bellevue. Who are they?

The United Nations definition of poverty:

“A denial of choices and opportunities, a violation of human dignity.”

- Average age is 51. They have raised their children. They have been homemakers, caregivers.
- They are the working poor, underemployed, or unemployed. No one will hire a woman in her 60s who hasn't worked in the last 15 years.
- Their support network breaks down as they experience homelessness; they are embarrassed and feel shame.
- They **begin to find community** in our shelter and build vital connections in Bellevue-social services, Church, counselors, employment support.



They want to stay in Bellevue

- **They are your neighbors**-they serve you at Mod Pizza, Jamba Juice, Oil and Vinegar, Macys, Nordstrom, and may have prepared your taxes at H&R Block.
- One client, a certified nurses' assistant, became homeless when her rent increased from \$900 a month to \$1,300.
- Most of our clients are 30% AMI. Only source of income may be SSDI which is on average \$700/month.
- They like the Eastside. There's more space for them to find vital human services and not inundated by others who are competing for the same limited resources such as on the West side.



Their Stories

Susan

\$1,645 in SSDI

Pays \$700 in health insurance

Spends 50% of income on medical expenses

Was renting a 125 ft. studio for \$715/month

Megan

Eviction on her record

Lost her job but now works full time at Macys

Debbie

Homeless since 2003

\$1155 in SSDI

Paying over half of her income for mental health counseling and prescriptions

Bobbi

Lost her job in November.

Saved enough money to pay for housing until January and then her and her teenage son became homeless.